

Jefferson Barracks
Jefferson Barracks Historical Park
St. Louis vicinity
St. Louis County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1809

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MO,
95-SALV.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JEFFERSON BARRACKS

HABS No. MO-1809

Location: Jefferson Barracks Historical Park, St. Louis vicinity,
St. Louis County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Jefferson Barracks, located approximately ten miles south of the city of St. Louis, Missouri, was established in 1826 at the instigation of General Henry Atkinson to replace Fort Bellefontaine at the north end of the county. Stephen Watts Kearny and Henry Leavenworth participated in its construction, and it was home at one time or another to nearly every military luminary, including Zachary Taylor, John C. Fremont, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumsah Sherman, and John L. Pershing.

There are two basic divisions within Jefferson Barracks: the quarters, in the vicinity of the quadrangle, and the north end of the Barracks which became an ordnance depot after the Mexican War and replaced the St. Louis Arsenal in 1879. Many buildings remain on both portions of the Jefferson Barracks, including several red-brick structures on the parade field, a hospital and medical facilities, a post office, and various administrative buildings. Four buildings on the ordnance depot have been restored: The Laborer's House (1851), a stone stable (1851), and two powder magazines (1851 and 1857).

St. Louis county acquired nearly 400 acres of the site after it was deactivated in 1946, and several of the original buildings were opened to the public beginning in 1960. The Laborers' House was built in 1851 for civilians working at the ordnance depot. The contemporary stable now displays horse gear. A museum of Barracks history occupies the massive powder magazine built in 1857, and the Old Ordnance Building hosts changing exhibits. Jefferson Barracks is listed on the National Register and is now maintained as the Jefferson Barracks Historical Park by the Department of Parks, St. Louis County, Missouri.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

National Register Nomination by Harold O. Berry, Historical Research and Planning Office, Missouri State Park Board.

St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Buildings in St. Louis County, 1985

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the [REDACTED] records for MO-1800.

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